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partners were developed under this bill, under this proposal. And I think the important part of this legislation was, in fact, to bring counties, communities, and individuals together, to work together for a common cause. One of the things that has been lacking particularly in rural Nebraska and somewhat in the urban areas is for communities and agencies to get together and work toward a common goal, and that is to provide economic development to their particular area of the state or the area that they live in. Again, I would hope that you would look favorably toward extending the time. What this bill actually does is extend the Partnership Act for four more years, to the year 2003. It sunsets, based on the legislation that was passed in 1995, it sunsets at the end of...in June of this present year, which means there would be no more opportunity for these kind of activities to be carried on by the people who are desirous of doing so. So what this bill would do is extend that time on that particular piece of legislation and allow us to go ahead with further funding for these kinds of projects. It's obvious, based on the number of applications that were submitted and number that were...that were approved, it's obvious that there are a number of things that have not been accomplished and could, in fact, be done if we would be so willing to advance this bill and have it passed in the final analysis. This was advanced from the Banking Committee on a...without a dissenting vote. There was no one who appeared in opposition to the bill. And, with that, Mr. Speaker, I will cease my discussion and ask for questions regarding this piece of legislation. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, only to confirm exactly what Floyd told you; and also to say I think that I can report that the committee's reaction was that this was a darn successful program. It was delightful to see some effective economic development in rural areas, it was a simple program to use, it was not highly administrative in nature, and it really improved the capacity of local rural areas, in particular, to get into the economic swim of things. And for that reason the committee was, I think, enthusiastic in its advancement of 202.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate on the advancement of LB 202? Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to close on